

VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

Pharmacist Statewide Protocol to Lower Out-of Pocket Expense

For the purpose of lowering a patient's out-of-pocket health care costs, a pharmacist may issue a prescription to initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs to persons 18 years of age or older:

- Medications covered by the patient's health carrier when the patient's out-of-pocket cost is lower than the out-of-pocket cost to purchase an over-the-counter equivalent of the same drug.

PHARMACIST EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Prior to issuing a prescription to initiate treatment with, dispensing, or administering medications under this protocol, the pharmacist shall be knowledgeable of the manufacturer's instructions for use and follow any relevant evidence-based guidelines.

PATIENT INCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients eligible for medications under this protocol:

- An individual, 18 years of age or older, whose over-the-counter medication is covered by the patient's health carrier and when the patient's out-of-pocket cost for the prescribed drug is lower than the out-of-pocket cost to purchase the same drug over-the-counter;
- An individual, 18 years of age or older, whose over-the-counter medication would cost more out-of-pocket than a prescribed prescription-only medication that is a therapeutically equivalent drug product¹, as defined in § 54.1-3401, as the over-the-counter medication.

RECORDKEEPING

The pharmacist shall maintain records in accordance with Regulation 18VAC110-21-46.

NOTIFICATION OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

In accordance with 54.1-3303.1 of the Drug Control Act, the pharmacist shall notify the patient's primary care provider. If the patient does not have a primary care provider, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding the benefits of establishing a relationship with a primary health care provider and, upon request, provide information regarding primary health care providers, including federally qualified health centers, free clinics, or local health departments serving the area in which the patient is located.

¹"Therapeutically equivalent drug products" means drug products that contain the same active ingredients and are identical in strength or concentration, dosage form, and route of administration and that are classified as being therapeutically equivalent by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration pursuant to the definition of "therapeutically equivalent drug products" set forth in the most recent edition of the Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, otherwise known as the "Orange Book.", § 54.1-3401.